

VISIT...

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Name _____

Author's Purpose

- The **author's purpose** is the reason or reasons an author has for writing. For example, the author may want to *inform*, *persuade*, *entertain*, or *express* a mood or feeling.
- An author may have one or more reason for writing.

Directions Read the following passage from *Two Great Rivers*. Then answer the questions below.

Floods and Flood Control

Flooding along the Mississippi can be a problem. When melting snow or heavy rains add lots of water to the river, the river overflows its banks. If the surrounding land is unable to absorb the water, flooding occurs. Since many acres of wetlands along the river have been drained and turned into farmland, more water has been forced into the river. Paved roads, parking lots, and even the roofs on buildings prevent rainwater from soaking into the ground. This

increases run-off into the river and the chance of flooding. Severe flooding often results in damage to nearby homes and communities.

Several methods are used to control floods. One way is to plant trees, grass, and other plants to absorb the water. Another way to control flooding is to build levees. Levees raise the banks of the river so that they can hold more water. Floodways are areas of land that provide outlets for draining water when the river reaches flood level. They help to decrease flooding elsewhere.

1–2. Give two reasons the author may have had for writing this passage.

3. Support why you think this.

4. Why does the author explain the human causes of flooding?

Name _____

Vocabulary

Directions Read each sentence. Write the word from the box that has the same meaning as the underlined word or phrase. Some words may be used more than once.

Check the Words You Know

___barges	___conservationists	___diminishing	___expedition
___reservoirs	___route	___silt	___tributaries

- We went on large, flat-bottomed boats to see how they operate. _____
- A tree fell down in the storm and blocked the road to the store. _____
- Waterways get cloudy from deposited dirt or sediment. _____
- My hopes of getting a bicycle are becoming smaller. _____
- The scientists planned a trip with a specific purpose to study. _____

Directions For each word, write a sentence that uses that word.

6. conservationists

7. reservoirs

8. tributaries
